

DNR eDigest

Editor: [Diane Brinson](#), (608) 266-5215

[Previous E-Digests](#)

[Print This Page](#)

The Bureau of Education and Information's goal is to publish "The E-Digest" bi-weekly on paydays. The bureau will publish additional issues, as needed. Contact "E-Digest" editor Diane.Brinson@wisconsin.gov or at 608/266-5215 to submit stories, story ideas and photos that communicate internally the department's work, policies and issues that matter to DNR employees.

July 30, 2009

In this E-Digest:

- [Ambs presents Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to EPA](#)
- [Wardens to step-up aquatic invasive species enforcement](#)
- [Callers within 715 area code to use 10-digit numbers in October](#)
- [Forestry program honors its own and friends](#)
- [Modifying your mortgage seminar scheduled for August 1](#)
- [Region honors businesses for efforts to improve air quality](#)
- [Quiet time for Legislature during summer break](#)
- [Streambank repair work unearths mastodon tooth](#)

 [Print](#)

Ambs presents Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to EPA

On July 21, Water Division administrator **Todd Ambs** presented remarks to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 relative to the EPA's draft five year plan for President Barack Obama's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Many DNR staff, as well as several other state agencies, were on hand or heard the remarks via Live Meeting. **Steve Galarneau**, acting director of the department's Office of the Great Lakes and the Lake Michigan Program coordinator, Plymouth, will coordinate gathering more complete formal comments to be presented to EPA prior to its August 19, 2009 deadline.

Go to "[Comments by Todd Ambs On Behalf of the State of Wisconsin](#)" to read the complete presentation.



[Top](#)

 [Print](#)

Wardens to step-up aquatic invasive species enforcement

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

DNR's South Central Region (SCR) conservation wardens will be on the alert at Dane County boat landings this weekend (August 1-2), with an eye towards enforcing a state law aimed at preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species that can harm lakes and rivers and hamper recreation.

"Aquatic invasive species can threaten boating, fishing, hunting, swimming and other favorite recreational pastimes," said deputy conservation warden Mac Hannon, Fitchburg. "Preventing their spread to new waters depends on the individual behavior of Dane County boaters. We need everyone to cooperate." That goes for those same boaters who boat waters outside Dane County.

"If boaters refuse to comply with the law, they can expect a citation," said Hannon. "We are serious about preventing the spread of invasive species."



Deputy conservation warden Greg Stacey explained how to avoid transporting aquatic invasive species during the 9th annual “Take an Adult Fishing Tournament” in Sauk City, on July 25.

Photo courtesy of Gary Engberg

Aquatic invasive species spread when they cling to a boat or trailer or are transported in bilge water or a bait pail by boaters leaving a water body infested with invaders. An eight-year-old state law makes it illegal for people to launch a boat or boating equipment with an aquatic plant attached; a first citation carries a \$169 forfeiture; subsequent violations can go up to \$263.

“Over the years (since the invasive species statute was enacted), wardens have been emphasizing information and education over writing citations. We are now changing tactics and emphasizing enforcement in response to the public’s desire to reduce the transport of invasive weed species into Dane County lakes,” said deputy conservation warden Greg Stacey, also stationed in Fitchburg. Groups such as the county’s Lakes and Watershed Commission, various lake associations, anglers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts have voiced their support for stepped-up enforcement, noted Stacey.

Aquatic invasive species such as [zebra mussels and Eurasian water milfoil](#), two of the most common in Wisconsin, can rapidly multiply, displace native species, reduce the food supply for fish, and set the stage for excessive growth of blue-green algae and other aquatic plants. Invasive species also can hamper recreation. For example, Eurasian water-milfoil forms thick mats on the water’s surface that get tangled in boat propellers, make swimming difficult, and collect onshore in smelly clumps that can harbor bacteria. To avoid accidentally transporting aquatic invasive species to other waters, before launching your boat and after leaving the boat landing at the end of the day:

- Inspect and remove aquatic plants, animals and mud from boat and equipment;
- Drain water from boat and equipment (motor, bilge, live wells and bait containers);
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash;
- Spray/rinse boats and recreational equipment with high pressure and/or hot tap water; or
- Dry boats and equipment thoroughly for at least five days before launching into a different water body.

More information about aquatic invasive species can be found on the DNR [“Invasive Species”](#) website.

Footnote: *Greg Matthews is the public affairs manager for the South Central Region.*

[▲
Top](#)

 [Print](#)

Callers within 715 area code to use 10-digit numbers in October

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission has approved a 10-month preparation period **beginning October 17** for those living/working within the 715 area code part of the state to get used to making **local calls** with 10-digit phone numbers that begin with “715.”

Those within the 715 area code are encouraged to use 10-digit phone numbers for all calls, e.g. 715-XXX-XXXX when calling customers or other DNR offices. If you use 7-digits to call locally during this period instead of a 10-digit number, your call still will go through.

Mandatory use of 10-digit phone numbers will begin on July 17, 2010. You’ll no longer be able to place local calls from within the 715 area code using a 7-digit number.

Another change will occur in this part of the state on August 14, 2010. After that date, phone companies within the 715 area will

begin assigning a 534 area code for new phone service. Phone companies will make this change to ensure that there are sufficient phone numbers available.

The ["New Wisconsin 534 Area Code"](#) gives you more detail on the effective dates for permissive and mandatory use of 10-digit phone numbers.

The "DNR Digest" will publish a story closer to October 17, 2009 as a reminder to begin using 10-digit phone numbers when calling locally within the 715 area code. Another "Digest" story prior to July 17, 2010 will alert you that mandatory use of 10-digits will be required beginning on that date.

Email Bureau of Technology Services telecom manager [Dorothy Richardson](#) with questions concerning these changes.



[Top](#)

 [Print](#)

Forestry program honors its own and friends

By: *Virginia Mayo Black, Division of Forestry*

As recently announced in ["The ForesTREEporter"](#) newsletter, the Division of Forestry recently recognized its staff around the state, as well as friends of the Forestry Program, for their extraordinary contributions. Award recipients were nominated by their colleagues.

Paul DeLong, Division of Forestry director and the state's chief forester, awarded **Dave Marquette**, Bowler, the Forestry Technician of the Year Award. In nominating Marquette, his colleague wrote of the technician's dedication, enthusiasm and willingness to take on a wide range of activities to further sustain forestry in Wisconsin:

- working with loggers and property owners on forest management planning and timber sales;
- working with municipalities;
- providing training and technical advice to Menominee Tribal Enterprises fire control staff;
- participating in landowner events;
- operating firefighting equipment;
- and tackling work backlogs.

DeLong also named **Steve Grant**, Wisconsin Rapids, as Forester of the Year. A 25-year-veteran of the department, Grant serves as the Wood County forester and advisor to the Wood County Land Conservation Board. Grant's accomplishments include:

- working with community and county forests;
- participating as a member of the Woodland Advocate Program with the Wisconsin Family Forests organization;
- working with school forests through the Wisconsin Association of Environmental Education.

Hayward Nursery superintendent **Gordy Christians** received the Outstanding Contribution to Sustainable Forestry Award. Referred to as "an innovative leader" who has "continually initiated improvements" to nursery operations, Christians' achievements include:

- hands-on contributions during emergency situations, such as the Ladysmith tornado;
- involvement in rewriting the nursery's tree order database software;
- and training of nursery staff.

Dick Steffes, director of the Bureau of Real Estate, received a Friend of Forestry Award for his involvement in the purchase of more than 700,000 acres of land, including the Peshtigo State Forest and the Wild Rivers Legacy Forest. Along with his staff, Steffes played a critical role in the Forestry Legacy Program.

Go to ["The ForesTREEporter"](#) for more information on these award recipients and other Friends of Forestry.

Footnote: *Virginia Mayo Black is a communication specialist with the Forestry Program.*



[Top](#)

 [Print](#)

Modifying your mortgage seminar scheduled for August 1

You can't pick up a newspaper or listen to the nightly news without running across a story about the financial and personal struggles homeowners face, from coast to coast—including Wisconsin. If you find yourself in the midst of this mortgage crisis, you may want to consider attending a one-on-one workshop scheduled for this Saturday, August 1, in Madison.

["Fix your loan, keep your home"](#) contains information about the workshop, where counselors will be on hand to help you work through financial issues that may be making it difficult to meet those monthly mortgage payments. Take note of the items you need to bring to the session, in order to make actual modifications to your mortgage loan.

Ellen Bernards, from [GreenPath Debt Solutions](#), presented the ["Winning the Credit Battle"](#) seminar in the central office earlier this year and is coordinating the mortgage modifications workshop. The City of Madison, Dane County and the Dane County Foreclosure Prevention Taskforce are sponsoring the event.

The 9 a.m. to noon workshop will be held at the [Madison Area Technical College \(MATC\) Truax Campus](#), located at 3550 Anderson St., on Madison's eastside.



[Top](#)

 [Print](#)

Region honors businesses for efforts to improve air quality

By: Marcus Smith, Southeast Region

In recognition of the fact that efforts to clean Wisconsin's air aren't just the responsibility of government, Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air (WPCA) recently singled out four Wisconsin businesses for their voluntary efforts to improve air quality.



(left to right) James Larson, (Mcloone), SER director Gloria McCutcheon, Barb Bristow, (Mcloone), John Fojut and Tari Emerson (Kohl's), Lisa Carroll and Nick Wong (Frito-Lay) gathered after receiving their air quality awards.

WDNR Photo

WPCA presented the awards during the 2009 Clean Air Extravaganza at Miller Park on July 14. The Clean Air Extravaganza celebrates the accomplishments of Wisconsin businesses and organizations to improve air quality by reducing emissions from their facilities and fleets, improving energy efficiency, and developing ways to educate the public about air quality issues.

The WPCA is a coalition of over 300 businesses, community organizations, schools and government agencies committed to improving air quality through voluntary action.

DNR Secretary **Matt Frank** addressed the event and Southeast Region director **Gloria McCutcheon** presented the WPCA Recognition Awards to the following recipients:



(center) Bill Weisgerber, Milwaukee County Transit System, presented (left) Donna Danihel and (right) Kristine Krause, both from We Energies, with the Commuter Champion Award.

WDNR Photo

- **Frito-Lay** for its extraordinary and ingenious approaches towards comprehensive sustainability companywide.
- **Kohl's Department Stores** for its commitment to smart energy choices.
- **Mcloone** for its ambitious and successful reduction of the company's emission of volatile organic compounds. Based out of La Crosse, the company makes custom decals, nameplates and pressure sensitive labels.
- **We Energies** received the Commuter Champion Award for offering a variety of commuting options to its employees.

Footnote: Marcus Smith is the public affairs manager for the Southeast Region.

 [Top](#)

 [Print](#)

Quiet time for Legislature during summer break

By: Paul Heinen, Office of the Secretary

It's been relatively quiet at the Capitol, with the Legislature on recess. For a complete status report on Senate and Assembly bills introduced in fiscal years 2009-2011, go to ["2009 Bill Tracker."](#)

Recent committee activity

- The Senate Natural Resources Committee held one hearing, but took no action on **AB 83**, which would "expand the eligibility for an annual fishing license at the lower fee to a veteran who is determined to be 'individually unemployable.'"
- The committee also held a hearing on **AB 86**, which would allow a non-resident age 65 or older with an archer hunting license to also hunt with a crossbow. Currently, only residents with archer licenses can use a crossbow. Again, no action was taken.
- **SB 38**, allowing a bus company to purchase park stickers enmasse for its passengers, passed out of the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Bills recently introduced

- Sen. Jim Holperin introduced **SB 241**, which redefines the wheel size on a legal ATV from 48 inches to 50 inches, the size of some of the newer models.
- Sen. Mark Miller introduced **SB 243**, which would eliminate the three day waiting period for archers.
- Rep. Andy Jorgensen will introduce in early August a bill to ban "thrill killing" of wild animals. He held a press conference on July 22 to announce his proposal to make it illegal to not report killing any bird or mammal while driving an off-road vehicle.

Footnote: Paul Heinen is a policy initiative advisor for the Secretary's Office.

[Top](#)

 [Print](#)

Streambank repair work unearths mastodon tooth

By: Lisa Gaumnitz, Office of Communication

A Grant County trout stream has given up the tooth of a mastodon, an enormous elephant-like mammal that roamed southwestern and southeastern Wisconsin during the [Ice Age](#).

South Central Region (SCR) heavy equipment operator **Cale Severson**, Fitchburg, was working on a trout habitat improvement project when he discovered the 8.5 inch long tooth in early July. The region stopped work upon uncovering the tooth, but resumed mid-month after the state archeologist cleared the way to do so.



Heavy equipment operator Cale Severson displayed the mastodon tooth he uncovered at a trout habitat improvement site.

WDNR Photo

Severson was working on repairing a stream bank washed away by recent flooding and found himself in a "river" of rock scattered around the valley floor. "I noticed something really odd in that pile -- seeing just two of the five cusps (of the tooth) -- and realized it probably was not a rock at that time," he says. "I grabbed it, and out came the 8.5-inch long molar."

"It was truly an amazing find and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Severson, a longtime member of SCR's trout habitat crew. Severson called regional fisheries supervisor **Scot Stewart**, who stopped work on the project. Work resumed after Wisconsin Historical Society archeologist Sherman Banker examined the site and tooth.

Banker concluded that the find wasn't significant. No other bones or other artifacts were found near the tooth that might have shed more information on the animal.

"We don't know where it came from," said Banker, from the society's Division of Historic Preservation. "It got washed out of wherever its primary context was and came to rest on a pile of eroded rock. There is nothing to be learned from it other than it came from a juvenile mastodon."

Banker said, however, that mastodon finds are extremely rare in Wisconsin. "These things usually come to light every 15 to 20 years," he said. "They have to have died in conditions conducive to being buried so scavengers don't tear the carcasses a part."

The remains of a large mastodon found by two children near Boaz, WI in 1897 represent a well-known Wisconsin find. The subsequent discovery in 1962 by a UW-Platteville geology professor of two spear points that may have been recovered with the Boaz mastodon created the first substantial evidence in Wisconsin that linked the Paleo-Indians with the hunting of mastodons, according to the Wisconsin Historical Society website.

The Boaz Mastodon is on display at the [UW-Geology Museum](#). There's a [road marker](#) near Boaz, where the boys made their discovery



The mastodon tooth unearthed in the SCR measured more than eight inches.

WDNR Photo

During the glacial period, mastodons were believed to have roamed over much of North America, from the Gulf of Mexico to New York and northwest to Alaska. Mastodons were smaller than mammoths and similar in size to modern-day elephants, with a height of seven feet for females and 10 feet for males weighing up to six tons, according to the [San Diego Natural History Museum](#) website. Adult mastodons had molars that featured distinctive, cone-like cusps and gave the animal its name. The word mastodon is derived from the Greek ("mastos" for breast and odon(t) for tooth, according to the website.

Mastodons became extinct some time after the last North American ice sheet, and archaeologists don't know whether huge climatic changes around 8,000 years ago doomed the mastodons, or whether, as some have theorized, they were hunted to extinction, Banker said.

Footnote: *Lisa Gaumnitz is the public affairs manager for the Division of Water.*



[Top](#)



[DNR Intranet Index](#) || [Search](#) || [DNR Home](#) || [Wisconsin Home](#) || [CE Intranet Home](#)

Produced by: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Communication and Education

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More information on this topic: **Editor:** [Diane Brinson](#), (608) 266-5215

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Last updated:  07/30/2009 09:26:05